dustrial Tribunals in different States, as on the 31st March, 1986 and 31st March, 1987; and

(b) the steps contemplated to ensure expeditious disposal of disputes in such Courts|Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The information relating to the industrial disputes pending before Labour Courts/Industrial Tribunals in the States|Union Territories is not maintained. However, according to available information, 213206 cases were pending as on 31.12.85 in different States|Union Territories barring the States of Nagaland and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) The Working Group on Industrial Relations constituted for the formulation of the 7th Five Year Plan had recommended norms for disposal of cases and establishment of new courts. As per these recommendations, norms for disposal for each Tribunal should be 10 contested cases and for each Labour Court 20 contested applications per month and the normal workload of an Industrial Tribunal should be 200 cases and of the Labour Court 800 applications. These recommendations were communicated to all the State Governments/Union Territories with the request that remedial action be taken to reduce the pendency of cases. The State Governments/Union Territories set up Industrial Tribunals|Labour Courts under the provision of Industrial Disputes Act for the State sphere. The State Government/Union Territories are addressed from time to time to review the position of cases and wherever necessary set up additional Tribunals|Courts.

Visit of Japanese Economic Delegation

1822. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Japanese economic delegation had visited India recently for exploring further trade prospects between the two countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) A delegation from the Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry visited India in June, 1987, to attend the 10th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Indo-Japan Business Cooperation Council.

Discussions were held on expansion of bilateral trade, areas of technical and financial collaboration, etc.

Amendment in air pollution control Act

1823. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the existing Air-pollution Control Act so as to make it more stringent;

(b) if so, what are the details of the amendments likely to be made in this regard; and

(c) by when the Act will be brought into force in major cities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) A bill to amend the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 30.7.1987.

Pollution control boards in states

1824. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: